

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 DRC-01 IO-14 /108 W

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R 121115Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7045

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIA

UNCLAS JIDDA 2582

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI PRESS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S VISIT

REF A) RIYADH 015; B) RIYADH 021

1. SAUDI PRESS, RADIO, AND TELEVISION GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO SECRETARY'S VISIT TO KINGDOM, INCLUDING PUBLICATION OF SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS AND MINSTATE SAQQAF'S REPLIES (REFTELS).

2. IN ADDITION TO UNUSUALLY HEAVY PRESS COVERAGE, VISIT HAS ELICITED TWO EDITORIALS. ONE IN THE DAILY NEWSPAPER "RIYADH" ON MAY 9 CHARACTERIZED SECRETARY'S VISIT AS DEMONSTRATING THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF SAUDI ARABIA IN TERMS OF ITS INFLUENCE WITH THE OTHER ARAB STATES. EDITORIAL SAYS IT APPROPRIATE THAT "ENGINEER OF AMERICAN POLICY" COMES TO SEE "STRONG MAN OF RIYADH "BECAUSE KING FAISAL HAS PROVED CAPABLE OF CONSOLIDATING POSITIONS OF ARAB STATES WHEN THEY FACE DANGER. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT IT IS NATURAL THAT THE SECRETARY UNDERSTANDS THIS REALITY AND APPROACHES THE ARAB MOTHER CAPITAL TO GET CORRECT

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INFORMATION REGARDING THE SITUATION.

3. SECOND EDITORIAL IN JIDDA DAILY "NADWA" OF MAY 11 IS ENTITLED "THE LAST HOURS OF KISSINGER'S JOURNEY". PAPER COMMENTS THAT AS DAYS PASS THE POSSIBILITY OF FAILURE INCREASES BECAUSE OF ISRAELI OBSTINACY AND REJECTION OF SOLUTIONS FOR THE RESTORATION OF ARAB TERRITORY LOST IN 1967. EDITORIAL CONTINUES THAT "ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION REVEALS ISRAELIS' DETERMINATION TO EXPAND THE WAR, INCLUDING A LARGE SCALE LAND OFFENSIVE FOLLOWED BY AN AIR OFFENSIVE AGAINST VITAL ECONOMIC INSTALLATIONS IN ARAB COUNTRIES." ARTICLE NOTES THAT THE SOVIETS' ROLE IN PREVENTING RESOLUTION OF THE CRISIS AND PERHAPS EVEN PUSHING SITUATION TOWARDS LARGE SCALE WAR PARALLELS THE EFFORTS AND THE INTERESTS OF ZIONIST INSTITUTIONS, THOUGH THERE MAY BE DIFFERENCES IN OBJECTIVES. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THERE ARE TWO POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS: A) INTENSIFIED FIGHTING IN THE GOLAN OR B) AN ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY OR THE DAY AFTER THAT KISSINGER HAS ACHIEVED AGREEMENT ON SEPARATION OF FORCES AND EITHER OF THESE TWO POSSIBILITIES DEPENDS UPON WHAT THE SECRETARY ACCOMPLISHES IN THE LAST DAYS OF HIS JOURNEY. AKINS

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